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Foreword

Basic Facts about Federal Corrections is a publication of the Correctional Service of Canada. It is designed to answer basic questions about federal corrections and conditional release.

In many areas of corrections and conditional release, the Correctional Service of Canada works in close partnership with the National Parole Board. As a result, *Basic Facts about Federal Corrections* contains information about the National Parole Board and its areas of responsibility.

Most information refers to adult corrections and covers the period from April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. Statistics on juvenile or adult provincial/territorial corrections are collected by the provinces/territories and are not included. In some instances the total number of offenders may vary a little depending on the data extraction date.

Contents

8 Introduction

12 Legislation

12 Mission Statement of the Correctional Service of Canada

12 Mission Statement of the National Parole Board

13 Total population of Canada

13 Number of people in Canada with a criminal record

13 Average count of adults imprisoned in Canada

13 Number of people convicted of a crime who received a federal sentence

14 Rate of imprisonment

15 Total expenditures of the Correctional Service of Canada

15 Number of people employed by the Correctional Service of Canada

15 Total expenditures for the National Parole Board

15 Average annual cost of incarcerating an inmate

16 Average annual cost of supervising an offender

16 Number of correctional facilities and parole offices

17 Number of correctional facilities by security level and region

18 Distribution of offender population by security level

18 Number of federal inmates

19 Number of admissions

20 Profile of the inmate population

21 Proportion of Aboriginals in the federal offender population

22 Profile of the Aboriginal inmate population

23 Corrections, conditional release and the protection of society

23 What happens when an offender is sentenced to a penitentiary

23 Correctional planning

24 Programs available to offenders

27 Programs available to the women offender population

28 Programs available to the Aboriginal offender population

29 Effectiveness of programming

30 Employment program

31 Pay of offenders

31 Private family visits

32 Types of release

32 Temporary absence

33 Work release

34 Day parole

36 Full parole

38 Accelerated parole review

39 Statutory release

41 Supervision of offenders

41 Difference between parole and statutory release

42 Community supervision

43 Consequences for not abiding by the conditions of a release

44 Hearings

44 Detention

45 Pardon

46 Judicial review

47 Rights of offenders

47 Redress

48 Victims

49 Importance of the community

50 How to reach us

Introduction

Responsibility for corrections in Canada is shared by federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the administration of sentences of offenders serving sentences of less than two years. They also have exclusive responsibility for offenders sentenced to probation, as well as for young offenders.

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is an agency of the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. CSC is responsible for managing offenders sentenced to two years or more. This responsibility includes the management of penitentiaries and the supervision of offenders on conditional release in the community.

CSC has its headquarters in Ottawa. The Commissioner of Corrections, accountable to the Solicitor General of Canada, is the senior executive officer. National headquarters is responsible for CSC's overall planning, policy development and administration. Five regional offices are responsible for administering the operations of correctional institutions and the supervision of offenders on conditional release in the community.

CSC administers federal penitentiaries, community correctional centres, district offices and parole offices.

Exchange of service agreements with the provinces and territories provide for some federal offenders to serve sentences in provincial correctional institutions and for some offenders under provincial jurisdiction to serve their sentences in federal institutions. Agreements also exist for exchange of community supervision services.

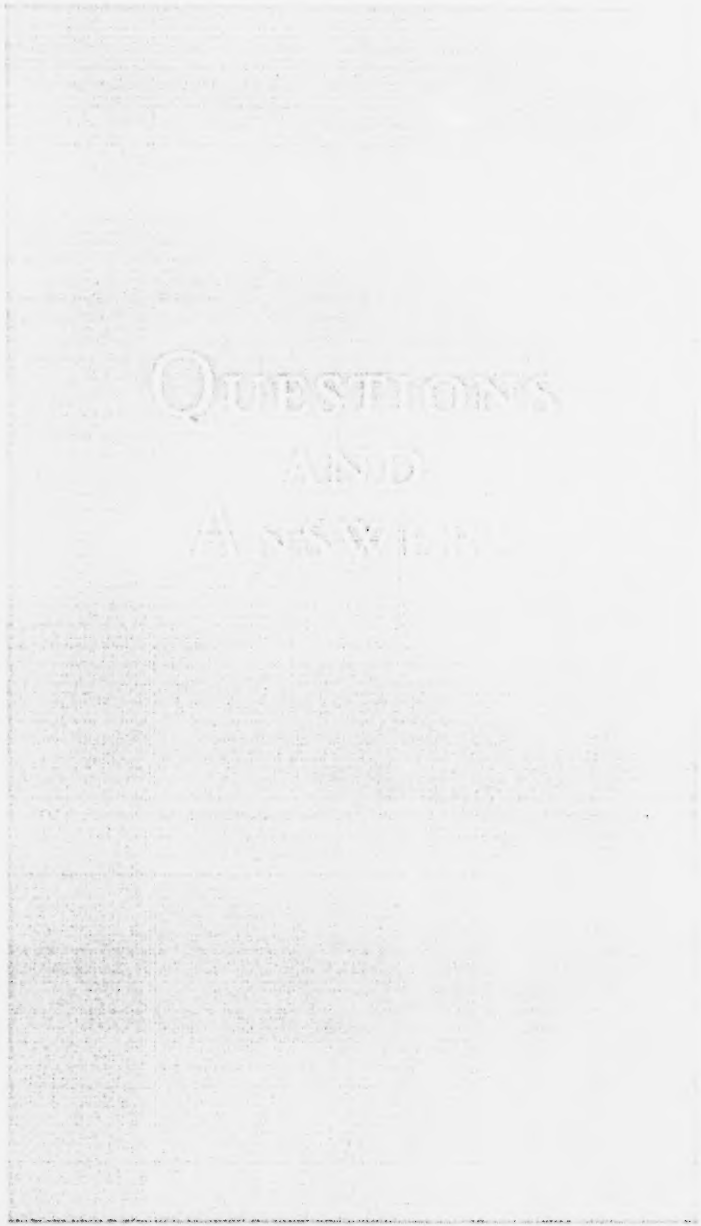
The National Parole Board (NPB) is an independent administrative tribunal which makes decisions about the timing and conditions of release of an offender. NPB has exclusive jurisdiction and absolute discretion to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole for inmates in federal, territorial, and many provincial institutions, except for cases under the jurisdiction of provincial parole boards (Quebec, Ontario and

British Columbia). NPB also has the authority to impose conditions on the release of offenders on statutory release and to revoke the statutory release of an offender. Following a recommendation from the Service, NPB may detain an offender past his or her statutory release date to warrant expiry. NPB shares responsibility with CSC for decisions about release on temporary absence.

In addition to its headquarters in Ottawa, NPB has five regional offices and one sub-office in the Prairie region from which Board members travel to correctional institutions to conduct conditional release hearings.

Board members are also called upon to make pardon decisions and recommendations to the Solicitor General of Canada concerning the granting of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

The National Parole Board relies on the Correctional Service of Canada to prepare reports and recommendations on the conditional release cases that come before NPB and to supervise offenders on parole or statutory release under conditions set by NPB.


QUESTIONS
AND

What legislation governs the operations of the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board?

The primary legislation is the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* which came into force in 1992. It replaced the *Penitentiary Act* and the *Parole Act* both of which had been in place for several decades.

What are the Mission Statements of the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board?

Mission Statement of the Correctional Service of Canada The Correctional Service of Canada, as part of the criminal justice system and respecting the rule of law, contributes to the protection of society by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure and humane control.

Mission Statement of the National Parole Board The National Parole Board, as part of the criminal justice system, makes independent, quality conditional release and pardon decisions and clemency recommendations. The Board contributes to the protection of society by facilitating, as appropriate, the timely integration of offenders as law-abiding citizens.

What was the total population of Canada in 2001?

According to the interim estimate following the 1996 Statistics Canada census and the adjustment of July 1, 2000, the country had 30,750,087 inhabitants. Of these, 15,517,178 were women.

How many people in Canada have criminal records?

2,600,994 men and 681,199 women in Canada have a criminal record. This includes young offenders who have been convicted of a criminal offence.

What was the average count of adults imprisoned in Canada?

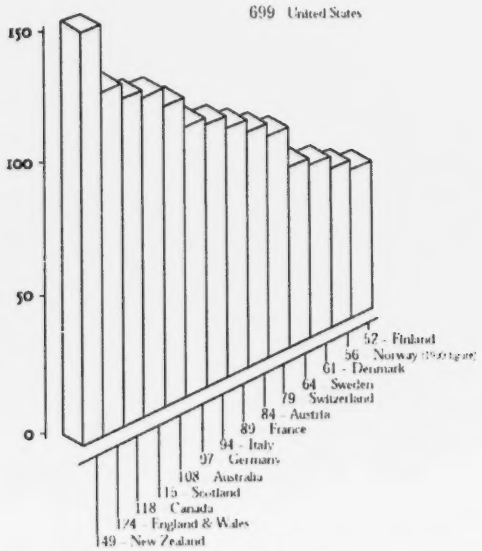
In 1999-2000, the average count of adults imprisoned (federal, provincial and territorial) in Canada was 31,600.

Of those convicted of a crime, how many receive a federal sentence?

In 1999-2000, there were about 285,000 convictions in adult provincial court, two-thirds of which did not result in a custodial sentence. Of those convictions where a term of imprisonment was imposed, 5% received a federal sentence.

What is Canada's rate of imprisonment?

In 2000, the incarceration rate in Canada was 118 per 100,000 general population. Canada's incarceration rate is higher than the rates in many Western European countries but much lower than the United States.



Source: Solicitor General Canada; Prison Statistics England and Wales 2000, Home Office Research, United Kingdom; Prison statistics in 2000, Bureau of Justice Statistics, United States Department of Justice.

What were the total expenditures of the Correctional Service of Canada in 2000-2001?

The total expenditures for the Correctional Service of Canada in 2000-2001 were $1.3 billion, with $822.7M spent on salaries, $114.6M on capital expenditures and $400.4M on operating costs.

How many people are employed by the Correctional Service of Canada?

As of March 31, 2001, there were 13,544 indeterminate employees of a total staff complement of slightly more than 15,000.

What were the total expenditures for the National Parole Board in 2000-2001?

The total expenditures for the National Parole Board in 2000-2001 were $30.9 million, with $24M spent on salaries and benefits and $6.9M on operating costs.

What was the average annual cost of incarcerating an inmate in a federal institution during 2000-2001?

Men $66,381 Women $110,473

The average daily inmate cost is based on those costs charged to and paid by the institutions. These costs represent the cost of operation of an institution and include salary and operating costs but exclude contributions to employee benefit plans, capital expenditures, expenditures relating to CORCAN, and other expenditures made centrally by National Headquarters.

What was the average annual cost of supervising an offender on parole or statutory release during 2000-2001?

Approximately $16,800 per offender.

How many correctional facilities and parole offices is the Correctional Service of Canada responsible for?

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is responsible for 53 penitentiaries of different security levels across Canada. Of these, five are regional women's institutions and one is a women's healing lodge. Women offenders in British Columbia are accommodated in a provincial women's institution under an Exchange of Services Agreement. The women's institutions are all multi-level security.

There are 19 district offices which oversee 71 parole offices. In addition, there are 17 Community Correctional Centres (CCC). These are small facilities in urban areas that house offenders on day parole or other forms of conditional release. All CCCs are for men offenders. However, each region has a woman-only community accommodation option, with the exception of the Atlantic region and that situation is being addressed.

In addition, approximately 175 Community-based Residential Facilities, commonly referred to as halfway houses, are used to provide accommodation, counselling and some programming to offenders. They are operated by non-profit, community-based agencies under contract with CSC.

How are correctional facilities classified and how many of each are there in the Correctional Service of Canada's five regions?

Penitentiaries are operated as maximum, medium, minimum or multi-level security facilities. The regional distribution is as follows:

Security Level	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie	Pacific	Total
Maximum	1	3	2	1	1	8
Medium	2	5	5	4	4	20
Minimum	1	3	4	7	2	17
Multi-level	1	1	2	3	1	8
Community Correctional Centres	4	6	3	3	1	17
Total per region	9	18	16	18	9	70

How was the inmate population classified, according to security level, as of April 29, 2001?

Security	Men	%	Women*	%	Aboriginals	%
Maximum	1,709	14	32	9	360	16
Medium	7,426	59	144	40	1,348	62
Minimum	2,580	21	160	44	375	17
Not yet classified	715	6	24	7	111	5
Total	12,430	100	360	100	2,194	100

*Does not include 25 federal women offenders serving sentences in provincial institutions who are classified according to provincial policies and procedures.

Each inmate is assessed at the start of the sentence to determine the risk he or she poses to the public, and to the security of the institution, staff, inmates and to themselves. The inmate's security level is reviewed throughout the sentence and can change over time.

What was the number of federal inmates on April 29, 2001?

Men	12,430	97%
Aboriginals	*2,104*	*16%*
Women	385	3%
Aboriginals	*90*	*1%*
Total	12,815	100%

This includes all federal inmates in federal or provincial institutions.

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Total	12,815	100%

This includes all federal inmates in federal or provincial institutions.

What was the total number of admissions in 2000-2001?

Offenders enter a federal penitentiary for the first time on a Warrant of Committal following sentence by a Court, or by way of an international transfer. They may also return to the penitentiary during their sentence if their conditional release is revoked by the National Parole Board for the commission of a new offence or for a breach of a condition of their release.

In 2000-2001, the admissions included:

Men	7,310
Aboriginals	*1,300*
Women	390
Aboriginals	*83*
Total	7,700

What was the profile of the inmate population in 2000-2001?

Men	Number 12,430	%
Age 20 to 34	5,839	47
Serving a first penitentiary sentence	7,767	62
Length of sentence		
Under three years	2,416	19
Three to under six years	3,825	31
Six to under ten years	1,895	15
Ten years or more	1,651	13
Life or indeterminate	2,643	21
Offence		
Murder – first degree	647	5
Murder – second degree	1,598	13
Schedule I (violent offences)	7,363	59
Schedule I (sexual offences)	1,952	16
Schedule II (drugs)	1,083	9
Non-scheduled (non-violent)	1,739	14

Note: Individuals could appear in more than one category.

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Length of sentence		
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Three to under six years	3,825	31
Six to under ten years	1,895	15
Ten years or more	1,651	13
Public safety sentence	2,643	21
Offence		
Murder, first degree	647	5
Murder, second degree	1,598	13
Schedule I violent offence	7,363	59
Schedule I sexual offence	1,952	16
Schedule II drugs	1,083	9
Serious habitual offence	1,739	14

Note: Individuals could appear in more than one category.

Women	Number 385	%
Age [illegible]	215	56
Serving [illegible] penitentiary sentence	316	82
Length of sentence		
Under three years	140	36
Three to under six years	105	27
Six to under ten years	47	12
Ten years or more	20	5
Life or indeterminate	73	19
Offence		
Murder – first degree	15	4
Murder – second degree	56	15
Schedule I [illegible]	168	44
Schedule I [illegible]	9	2
Schedule II [illegible]	92	24
Non-scheduled [illegible]	54	14

Note: Individuals could appear in more than one category.

What proportion of the federal offender population is Aboriginal? Aboriginal people represent approximately 15% of the federal offender population but only about 3% of the general population in Canada. The proportion of Aboriginal people (both men and women) is greater (17.2%) in penitentiary than under supervision in the community (11.7%).

In 2000-2001, 23% women and 18% of men incarcerated in federal institutions were Aboriginal.

What was the profile of the Aboriginal inmate population in 2000-2001?

	Number of men 2,104	%	Number of women 90	%
Age 20 to 34	1,212	58	59	66
Serving a first penitentiary sentence	1,194	57	65	72
Length of sentence				
Under three years	440	21	35	39
Three to under six years	693	33	20	22
Six to under ten years	352	17	15	17
Ten years or more	198	9	6	7
Life or indeterminate	421	20	14	16
Offence				
Murder – first degree	83	4	1	1
Murder – second degree	268	13	12	13
Schedule I	1,410	67	50	56
Schedule I (sexual offence)	435	21	1	1
Schedule II (drug)	83	4	20	22
Non-scheduled	260	12	7	8

Note: Individuals could appear in more than one category.

Women	Number 385	%
Age 20 to 31	215	56
Serving a first penitentiary sentence	316	82
Length of sentence		
Under three years	140	36
Three to under six years	105	27
Six to under ten years	47	12
Ten years or more	20	5
Life or indeterminate	73	19
Offence		
Murder – first degree	15	4
Murder – second degree	56	15
Schedule I (sexual offences)	168	44
Schedule I (assaultive)	9	2
Schedule II (drugs)	92	24
Non scheduled (property offences)	54	14

Note: Individuals could appear in more than one category.

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Length of sentence				
Under three years	440	21	35	39
Three to under six years	693	33	20	22
Six to under ten years	352	17	15	17
Ten years or more	198	9	6	7
Life or indeterminate	421	20	14	16
Offence				
Murder – first degree	83	4	1	1
Murder – second degree	268	13	12	13
Schedule I (excluding sexual offences)	1,410	67	50	56
Schedule I (sexual offences)	435	21	1	1
Schedule II (drugs)	83	4	20	22
Non scheduled (non violent)	260	12	7	8

Note: Individuals could appear in more than one category.

How do corrections and conditional release contribute to the protection of society?

Almost all offenders will eventually return to the community. Therefore, in addition to ensuring their separation from society when necessary, the Correctional Service of Canada's focus is on the eventual return of most offenders to the community and preparing them to do so in a law-abiding manner. The greatest protection that can be offered to the community is to assist the offender, throughout the sentence, to change his or her criminal behaviour and to learn to live by the rules of society. This preparation includes programming to meet specific needs, and opportunities to demonstrate progress, through transfers to reduced security or conditional release including temporary absences, work release, parole or statutory release. In any correctional or conditional release decision the protection of society is the paramount consideration.

What happens when an offender is sentenced to a penitentiary?

Immediately after the Court sentences an offender, a process of information collection begins. Information about the offender and the offence(s) is sought from many sources such as police, Crown Attorneys, judges, courts, victims and family members. When an offender reaches the penitentiary, he or she undergoes a comprehensive assessment

to determine what factors may have led to the criminal behaviour for which he or she has been sentenced. When all of the information is put together, a correctional plan is developed with the offender.

What is correctional planning?

Offenders must take responsibility for their own behaviour and for changing that behaviour which led to a federal sentence. Correctional planning is a process which fosters changes in behaviour. Specific needs are identified for each offender to address, and are linked to the program and/or treatment which will assist the offender to adopt socially acceptable behaviour. This is recorded in a document called the correctional plan. It is expected that the offender will work towards changing his or her criminal behaviour throughout the sentence. The offender's progress in meeting the requirements of the correctional plan is monitored continually and is a primary consideration in any decision related to the offender.

What kind of programs are available to offenders?

A variety of programs are available to offenders. Psychological and psychiatric counselling address mental health needs and there are opportunities for academic and vocational education. Inmates who meet the basic secondary school requirements may also apply for college and university pro-

grams, taken through correspondence. Fees for post-secondary courses are normally paid by the offenders. Examples of specific programs include:

Literacy Programs are offered in all institutions to meet a basic social need and as a tool for understanding other program components. Approximately 53% of new offenders in correctional institutions test at or below a Grade 10 level in mathematics and language.

Cognitive Skills Training, a core component of Living Skills Programming, teaches offenders thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Living Skills programs include parenting skills, anger and emotion management, leisure education and community integration. They address various needs which are relevant to preparing an offender for reintegration into the community.

Sex Offender Treatment Programs focus on identifying the nature and pattern of the offender's behaviour, and providing the offender with skills that reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

Substance Abuse Intervention consists of a range of programs that vary in intensity so they meet the diverse treatment needs of the offenders. Each program teaches skills that offenders can use to change their substance use and reduce the likelihood that they will engage in criminal behaviour. The Offender Substance Abuse Pre-Release Program is an accredited program that is used internationally and recognized as being "state-of-the-art."

Family Violence Prevention Programs are available to men offenders who have been violent towards their intimate partners. The national high intensity program provides intervention to offenders who are assessed as high risk to be violent in their intimate relationships, while the national moderate intensity program targets offenders who are assessed as moderate risk. The programs teach participants to understand the dynamics of their abusive relationships and train them in cognitive-behavioural techniques to replace abusive behaviours with positive, non-abusive skills and behaviours.

Violence Prevention Program is an intensive cognitive-behavioural program for high risk men offenders convicted of violent crimes. It is grounded in contemporary theory and research, and delivered by a psychologist and a program delivery officer. The overall objective of the program is to contribute to the reduction of violent recidivism. The program has been accredited by an international panel of experts.

LifeLine. Many federal offenders who are serving life sentences need assistance in adjusting to their indefinite period of incarceration and in finding hope and direction for the future. To help meet these needs, the Correctional Service of Canada, in consultation with the National Parole Board and the LifeLine National Resource Group, engages LifeLine In-Reach workers to assist these offenders

with their adjustment within the institution and to help them work towards parole and safe reintegration in the community. LifeLine also promotes public awareness of the needs of offenders serving long-term sentences in order to achieve safe and successful reintegration.

What programs are available to the women offender population?

The majority of correctional programs have been developed on the basis of research with men offenders. However, some programs have been developed specifically for women offenders such as the Mother-child residential program and Survivors of Abuse and Trauma, while others have been modified to meet women's needs such as Cognitive Skills. The Correctional Service of Canada is continuing its work to ensure the effectiveness of its programs for women. Over time, this may result in the redevelopment and/or further modification of programs.

Survivors of Abuse and Trauma: Violence has a profound impact on the way survivors perceive themselves, their abilities and their interactions with others. The goal of the program is to provide awareness and support through group programs and individual counselling to women who have suffered abuse in order to assist them to overcome the trauma they have experienced.

Mother-child Program: The Mother-child program allows eligible women who give birth while incarcerated to reside with their child, up to the age of 4, in the institution. Women classified as maximum security are not eligible. The basis for all decision making is the best interests of the child.

What programs are available to the Aboriginal offender population?

Experience has shown that Aboriginal offenders more readily participate in programs that are developed by Aboriginal people and communities. In response, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is developing a number of Aboriginal alternatives to the core programs presently offered to all offenders. Programs and services that are currently provided include the following:

Aboriginal Liaison Service is offered to ensure that the sentence management process is sensitive and responsive to the cultural perspective and needs of Aboriginal offenders.

Aboriginal Spiritual Services are provided by Elders/Spiritual Advisors who conduct traditional ceremonies, provide counselling and instruction to offenders who choose to accept Aboriginal ethics, values and beliefs as a part of their healing process.

"In Search of Your Warrior" is the Aboriginal alternative to the violence prevention program that is available to offenders. It deals with the com-

mon causes of violence and how the expression of violence can be avoided.

Aboriginal Lodges provide Aboriginal offenders with an opportunity to complete a part of their correctional plan in a milieu oriented to Aboriginal culture and healing methods. CSC operates three such facilities and four are operated by Aboriginal organisations under an arrangement that permits the Solicitor General of Canada to enter into agreements with Aboriginal communities for the provision of correctional services.

How is the effectiveness of programming assessed?

For the last several years, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has been actively involved in a review process to ensure that its programs are designed to maximize effectiveness and that they embrace the latest treatment techniques and delivery standards for each program area.

Programs are presented to review panels that consist of internationally-recognized experts in the field who assess the program in relation to specific criteria. Programs that are rated as fulfilling the required criteria are then recommended by the panel to the Commissioner for accreditation. In turn, the quality of the delivery of accredited programs in the field (institutions and community) is assessed through a process of site accreditation.

CSC continues to conduct research and evaluation on the effectiveness of women offender programs in order to develop a credible empirical research base. Given the relatively small numbers of women offenders, as compared to men offenders, program effectiveness research for women offender programs presents unique challenges.

Is there an offender employment program that assists offenders in practising good working habits comparable to those in the private sector?

Yes. CORCAN, a Special Operating Agency of the Correctional Service of Canada, is mandated to provide employability skills training and employment to offenders in our federal institutions. Operating coast to coast in over half of federal correctional facilities, CORCAN employs close to 4,000 offenders every year in a variety of business lines, including manufacturing, construction, agribusiness, textiles and services. Working conditions are deliberately structured to replicate as closely as possible the private sector work environment so that offenders can acquire the skills and behaviours they will need to find and keep work once they are released. Offender employees produce a range of products and services that are marketed to the public and not-for profit sectors in Canada.

Are federal inmates paid, and how much?

Yes. Federal inmates may earn from $5.25 to $6.90 per day in an institution, depending on their performance on-the-job or in programming. Unemployed inmates receive an allowance of $1 or $2.50 per day.

Inmates may have their pay suspended if they refuse to work or participate in institutional programs, are in disciplinary segregation, or if they do not obey rules.

Each inmate is responsible for budgeting to ensure the availability of funds for conditional release expenditures, for ongoing expenses such as canteen or telephone calls, and for the purchase of major items of personal property.

Are private family visits permitted in the Correctional Service of Canada's correctional facilities?

Yes. Private family visiting is a program which supports the development and maintenance of positive family and community relationships that will assist inmates to prepare for reintegration as law-abiding citizens. If they meet certain criteria, inmates have the opportunity to use separate facilities where they may meet privately to renew or continue personal relationships.

Normally, private family visits are allowed once every two months for periods up to 72 hours per inmate.

What types of release are available to federal offenders?

Offenders may be released on:

- Temporary absences (escorted or unescorted)
- Work release
- Day parole
- Full parole
- Statutory release

What is a temporary absence?

An offender may be allowed to leave the institution for short periods of time for medical, administrative or humanitarian reasons, for program related purposes (community service, family contact, parental responsibility, personal development for rehabilitative purposes) or compassionate reasons. All offenders may be considered for medical or humanitarian escorted temporary absences. Only offenders classified as medium or minimum security may be considered for the other types of absences. In these instances, the offender must be assessed as not presenting an undue risk to society, and in most cases (other than life sentence) offenders must have served at least one-sixth of their sentence.

Temporary absences may be escorted or unescorted. For escorted absences, the offender

is accompanied by one or more security officers or by a trained volunteer from the community.

How many escorted temporary absences were completed in 2000-2001?

In 2000-2001, 10,214 offenders participated in 34,491 escorted temporary absences (ETA). Of these, 785 women participated in 1,768 ETAs and 2,327 Aboriginals participated in 9,008 ETAs. 99% of all escorted temporary absences were completed successfully.

How many unescorted temporary absences were completed in 2000-2001?

In 2000-2001, 4,046 offenders participated in 7,233 unescorted temporary absences (UTA). Of these, 271 women participated in 380 UTAs and 396 Aboriginals participated in 1,083 UTAs. 99% of all unescorted temporary absences were completed successfully.

What is work release?

This program allows an inmate, classified as minimum or medium security and who is judged not to pose an undue risk to reoffend, to do paid or voluntary work in the community under supervision. Eligibility for work release usually occurs at one-sixth of the sentence.

In 2000-2001, 3,209 offenders participated in 4,328 work releases. Of these, 59 women participated in 84 work releases and 391 Aboriginals participated in 636 work releases. 99% of all work releases were completed successfully.

What is day parole?

Day parole is a release which allows an offender to participate in community-based activities in preparation for a full parole or statutory release. The offender must reside in a halfway house or an institution and be subject to the rules of the facility. Generally, an offender is eligible for day parole six months before full parole eligibility. Inmates serving life sentences are eligible three years before full parole eligibility.

In 2000-2001, how many decisions were made by the National Parole Board to grant, and how many to deny, day parole?

	Men	Women	Aboriginals
Granted	3,235 (71%)	224 (89%)	511 (74%)
Denied	1,327 (29%)	27 (11%)	178 (26%)

In 2000-2001, 3,209 offenders participated in 4,328 work releases. Of these, 59 women participated in 84 work releases and 391 Aboriginals participated in 636 work releases. 99% of all work releases were completed successfully.

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What were the outcomes of the day parole releases?

Men

From April 2000 to March 2001, 3,270 day parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 2,706 cases (83%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 390 cases (12%), day parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 174 cases (5%), day parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 149 cases were non-violent.

Women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 237 day parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 194 cases (82%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 33 cases (14%), day parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 10 cases (4%), day parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, all of which were non-violent.

Aboriginal men

From April 2000 to March 2001, 453 day parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 370 cases (82%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 57 cases (13%), day parole was revoked for violation of conditions;

- in 26 cases (6%), day parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 22 cases were non-violent.

Aboriginal women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 58 day parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 47 cases (81%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 7 cases (12%), day parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 4 cases (7%), day parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, all of which were non-violent.

What is full parole?

Full parole allows an offender to live independently and work in the community, subject to conditions, providing him or her with an opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can be a law-abiding member of society. Most offenders become eligible for full parole after serving one-third of the sentence, although judges may require certain violent or drug offenders to serve one-half of the sentence. In cases of second-degree murder, the parole eligibility date is set by the Court at between 10 and 25 years, and in cases of first degree murder, the law sets parole eligibility at 25 years. It should be noted that offenders who are serving a life sentence, and who are granted parole, remain on parole and under supervision for the rest of their lives unless they are returned to penitentiary for a violation of conditions or further criminal activity.

In 2000-2001, how many decisions were made by the National Parole Board to grant, and how many to deny, full parole?

	Men	Women	Aboriginals
Granted	1,638 (41%)	172 (75%)	201 (37%)
Denied	2,390 (59%)	56 (25%)	342 (63%)

What were the outcomes of the full parole releases for offenders serving determinate sentences?

Men

From April 2000 to March 2001, 1,626 full parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 1,199 cases (74%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 265 cases (16%), full parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 162 cases (10%), full parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 137 cases were non-violent.

Women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 170 full parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 134 cases (79%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;

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Women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 170 full parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 134 cases (79%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;

- in 23 cases (14%), full parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 13 cases (7%), full parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, all of which were non-violent.

Aboriginal men

From April 2000 to March 2001, 132 full parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 79 cases (60%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 28 cases (21%), full parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 25 cases (19%), full parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 20 cases were non-violent.

Aboriginal women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 23 full parole supervision periods were completed:

- in 13 cases (57%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 7 cases (30%), full parole was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 3 cases (13%), full parole was revoked for commission of a new offence, all of which were non-violent.

What is accelerated parole review?

Accelerated parole review applies to first time, non-violent federal offenders only. These offenders' cases are reviewed by the National Parole

Board (NPB) for day and full parole after having served one-sixth of their sentence. The NPB must direct their release on parole unless there is evidence that they are likely to commit a violent offence if released.

What is statutory release?

Statutory release is prescribed by law. The law requires that most offenders who are serving a penitentiary sentence of a fixed length and who are not on parole be released on statutory release after having served two-thirds of their sentence. Offenders on statutory release must abide by the conditions of release and are subject to supervision in the community. They may be returned to penitentiary for violation of conditions or further criminal activity.

What were the outcomes of the statutory releases?

Men

From April 2000 to March 2001, 4,829 statutory release periods were completed:

- in 2,842 (59%) cases, the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 1,282 (27%) cases, statutory release was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 705 (15%) cases, statutory release was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 571 cases were non-violent.

Women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 134 statutory release periods were completed:

- in 84 (63%) cases, the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 43 (32%) cases, statutory release was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 7 (5%) cases, statutory release was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 6 cases were non-violent.

Aboriginal men

From April 2000 to March 2001, 1,029 statutory release periods were completed:

- in 564 cases (55%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 319 cases (31%), statutory release was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 146 cases (14%), statutory release was revoked for commission of a new offence, of which 120 cases were non-violent.

Aboriginal women

From April 2000 to March 2001, 47 statutory release periods were completed:

- in 29 cases (62%), the offenders successfully completed their term of supervision;
- in 15 cases (32%), statutory release was revoked for violation of conditions;
- in 3 cases (6%), statutory release was revoked for commission of a new offence, all of which were non-violent.

What was the number of federal offenders being supervised in Canada on March 31, 2001?

	Men	Women
Day parole	1,095	68
Aboriginal	*138*	*9*
Full parole	3,928	328
Aboriginal	*323*	*42*
Statutory release	2,112	51
Aboriginal	*370*	*14*
Total	7,135	447

Includes men and women federal offenders on active day parole, full parole and statutory release, actively under supervision in the community on the day of the snapshot.

What is the difference between parole and statutory release?

Parole and statutory release are both forms of conditional release, where the offender is subject to supervision until the end of the sentence, the main difference being that parole is a discretionary decision of the National Parole Board, while statutory release is a type of release required by law. Also, offenders serving life or indeterminate sentences are not entitled to statutory release, but can apply for parole.

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What is community supervision?

The transition from confinement to the community can be difficult. Offenders have a better chance of success if they receive supervision, programming opportunities and support within the community to which they are returning.

Supervision is carried out by the Correctional Service of Canada parole officers or contracted agency staff. It is a dynamic process that involves measures of both support and control, working directly with the offender as well as many resources in the community.

All offenders on conditional release are supervised no matter where they live. The degree of supervision will depend on the offenders' needs and risk. Parole officers rely on an array of information sources including police, families, professionals and program staff to verify the individual's progress and to develop an appropriate plan of supervision. Parole officers are available to help the offender solve problems and take necessary action when risk is increased.

Research shows that supervision alone does not help offenders change. Supervision together with programming does. Correctional programs in the community are tailored to the offenders' needs. Some programs help address the problems of daily living, relationships and emotions. Others focus more specifically on education, sexual deviance and alcohol or drug abuse. Programs in the community are designed to build on the gains that the offender has made in institutional programs.

Because there are relatively few women on conditional release in the community in any one location, it is difficult to provide group based programming. Community interventions therefore are generally one to one counselling. Women's needs are also met through connections to agencies and services for women in the community.

What happens when an offender does not abide by the conditions of a release?

If an offender breaches a condition of release a number of actions are possible, depending on the significance of the breach. These sanctions range from disciplinary interviews to adding conditions to the release to suspension of the release. After an investigation by the parole officer, a recommendation is provided to the National Parole Board (NPB) to either continue or revoke the conditional release.

If an offender is convicted of another offence while in the community under supervision, the release may be revoked by NPB and the offender returned to a penitentiary. If the new offence results in a sentence of incarceration, NPB does not have discretion, the offender's parole has to be revoked.

Can anybody observe a National Parole Board hearing?

Yes. Most of the time observers are allowed to attend Board hearings. Anyone who wishes to observe a hearing is required to submit an observer application, prior to the hearing, to allow for the required security check for visitors to a correctional institution, and for the Board to review the application. Observers may be members of the general public, victims or the victim's family, or the offender's family. In some rare cases, the Board may deny an observer's request to attend a hearing.

Observers are not permitted to participate in the hearing or remain in the hearing room during the Board members' deliberations. However, people who wish to provide the Board with information that may be relevant to a decision may submit a statement to the Board before the review.

What is detention?

The National Parole Board, following referral from the Correctional Service of Canada, may order the detention of an offender beyond the statutory release date, if it is determined that the offender is likely to commit, before the end of the sentence:

- an offence causing death or serious harm to another person;
- a sexual offence involving a child; or
- a serious drug offence.

How many offenders were detained by the National Parole Board through the initial detention review process in 2000-2001?

In 2000-2001, 213 men and two women were detained by the National Parole Board as a result of the initial detention review process. Of those, 66 were Aboriginals.

Do detained offenders remain in the penitentiary until the end of their sentence?

Although each detention order must be reviewed by the National Parole Board on an annual basis, most offenders (approximately 90%) who have been detained remain in penitentiary until the end of their sentence.

What is a pardon?

Pardons allow people, who were convicted of a criminal offence but have completed their sentence and demonstrated that they are law-abiding citizens, to have their criminal record sealed. A person convicted of a summary offence may apply for a pardon after three years from the completion of the sentence and a person convicted of an indictable offence may apply after five years.

How many pardons were granted in 2000-2001?

Applications granted/issued	14,195
Applications denied	84

What is judicial review?

The Criminal Code of Canada stipulates that where a person has served at least 15 years of a life sentence for first- or second-degree murder or high treason (with a parole ineligibility date of more than 15 years), that person is eligible to apply to the appropriate provincial Chief Justice for a reduction in the number of years of imprisonment without eligibility for parole. A judicial review is not an early parole hearing. The Court only decides when the offender may be considered eligible for parole.

Changes to the Criminal Code allow for a judge to determine whether the case will proceed to a full judicial review and prevent multiple murderers (one of the murders must have been committed after January 9, 1997) from applying. A full judicial review is conducted by a judge and jury in the jurisdiction where the offender was tried and sentenced.

Do offenders lose all their rights while under sentence?

Like all Canadians, offenders' rights are protected under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Contrary to popular myth, offenders do not have more rights than the average citizen. Essentially, they retain the rights of an ordinary citizen except those which have been removed by law or as a necessary result of incarceration. The *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* and Regulations as well as Correctional Service of Canada and National Parole Board policy clearly outline these rights.

Do opportunities exist for federal offenders to seek redress?

The offender complaint and grievance procedure allows offenders to complain informally and in writing if they believe their rights have been violated or if they disagree with a decision the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has made in their case. Offenders may also write to a number of appointed and elected officials, as well as to the Correctional Investigator, who is independent from CSC and reports directly to the Solicitor General of Canada. Under some circumstances, an offender may have recourse to the federal courts. Finally, offenders may appeal a decision of the National Parole Board to the Board's Appeal Division.

Are victims considered by the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board?

The *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* and the Missions of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and the National Parole Board (NPB) ensure that the concerns of victims are taken into account in the discharge of duties. CSC must solicit the information provided to the Court by the victims, which then becomes part of the information used in making decisions about offenders. Victims, or family members of victims, may make representations to CSC and/or NPB at any time during an offender's sentence. When an offender is being considered by the NPB for conditional release, victims may present a statement to the Board. Since July 1, 2001, victims, as defined in sections 2 and 142(3) of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* have a voice at Parole Board hearings. They have the opportunity to read a prepared statement directly to the Board members. A victim may also choose to present his/her statement on audio or videotape.

The law requires CSC and NPB to share all information that will be used in rendering a decision with the offender, including information from the victims. Information cannot be used if it is not shared. However, such information can be shared in the form of a summary that protects

sensitive information that could jeopardize the safety of the victim. Also, the offender will not receive any personal information related to victims such as address or telephone number.

Victims may request some information about the offender and may ask to continue to be informed about the status of the offender throughout the sentence.

A victim may contact any CSC or NPB regional office. Both agencies have designated staff to assist victims and their families.

Why is community involvement important?

Participation by members of the public is essential to both corrections and conditional release. In most cases, the offender will return to the community. It is critical that the offender has the benefit of developing and maintaining positive links throughout the sentence.

Community participation takes many forms. The Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board work with a broad range of community groups and individuals – some who understand the challenges from a professional orientation, some who may bring a cultural awareness to the challenge, or others whose involvement comes from being a family member, a victim of crime or a concerned citizen.

The Correctional Service, the National Parole Board, the community itself and the offender population all benefit from community involvement.

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